

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W
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R 130921Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2528
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 5231

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SW
SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEATH PENALTY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. A TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN STOCKHOLM'S FOLKETS HUS DECEMBER 10-11, WITH PARTICIPATION OF 177 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 49 COUNTRIES. DELEGATION WAS ADDRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER THORBJORD FALLDIN, WHO RECALLED SWEDISH UNGA INITIATIVES IN 1968 AND 1971 AIMING AT A RESTRICTION OF PENALTY'S APPLICATION AND ITS EVENTUAL ABOLISHMENT. FALLDIN ALSO REFERRED TO A RECENT UN DECISION TO DISCUSS DEATH PENALTY DURING PLANNED 1980 CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF CRIMINAL IN AUSTRALIA.

2. CONFERENCE APPROVED A DECLARATION OF STOCKHOLM, WHICH NOT ONLY CONDEMNED THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN CRIMINAL CASES,
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BUT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT "THE DEATH PENALTY INCREASINGLY ASSUMES THE FORM OF ILLEGAL EXECUTIONS, UNEXPLAINABLE DISAPPEARANCES, AND POLITICAL MURDERS, PERMITTED, TOLERATED, OR APPROVED BY GOVERNMENTS." A SPECIAL PARAGRAPH CONDEMNS ALL POLITICAL VIOLENCE: "EXECUTIONS WHICH AIM AT EXERTING POLITICAL PRESSURE ARE UNACCEPTABLE, WHETHER THEY ARE CARRIED OUT BY ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT OR BY OTHER GROUPS." US IS

CALLED UPON TO "RESOLUTELY" DECLARE THAT THE DEATH PENALTY VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. AMNESTY PLANS TO USE STOCKHOLM DECLARATION AS LAUNCHING POINT FOR WORLD-WIDE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. DURING PAUSE IN PROCEEDINGS, AMERICAN PARTICIPANT FROM NEW YORK, DEBORAH LEVY, HEAD OF ACLU DEATH PENALTY PROJECT, WAS HEARD ASKING FALLDIN THAT HE USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO WORK FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN US AND TO PLEAD FOR CLEMENCY IN CASES WHERE FURTHER EXECUTIONS ARE IMMINENT IN US. FALLDIN WAS HEARD TO REPLY THAT HE DID NOT FEEL HE HAD MUCH INFLUENCE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, BUT THAT HE WOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE POSITION IN GENERAL WITH REGARD TO HELPING ANTI-DEATH PENALTY FORCES IN THE US IF LEVY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL. HE ALSO REFERRED HER TO THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND THE SWEDISH UN DELEGATION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

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